

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the official action dated April 21, 2005. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 9-12 remain in this application. Claims 1-4, 6-8 have been canceled. Claim 12 has been added. The Examiner had objected to claims 1-2, 4, 7 -11 for including informalities. Applicants have amended claims 5 and 9 to be in independent form, and where appropriate, amended the objectionable language. New claim 12 includes the same limitations as claim 5, however, applicants believe that the claim is allowable without the material (polycarbonate) limitation of claim 5.

Concerning claim 1, the Examiner objected to language such as "a differentiation and interference structure", "2-D-sub-micrometer structure" (concerning claim 2 now canceled) and "micro-interference structure and macroscopic structures" (concerning claim 4 now canceled). Applicants submit that the term "differentiation and interference structure" are terms known by a person skilled in the art (see for example US 4,662,653), particularly in the context of encoding bars. Such structure includes encoding marks consisting typically of a sequence of stripes or bars. The stripes with high transmission alternate with stripes with low transmission and/or reflection, so that the signals originating from a transmitter are modified by the changing optical structures. Such structure is shown in the mask 2.

The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 5, 9-11 are directed to allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended these claims to be independent or dependent on newly amended independent claim and believe that these claims are now in condition of allowance.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

If any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, authorization is hereby given to charge our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,



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